

A
S E R M O N

Preached in the BAPTIST Meeting House,
in *Swift's-Alley*, Nov. 9th. 1760.

On the Death of His late most Excellent
M A J E S T Y,

G E O R G E II.

Of Glorious M E M O R Y.

By WILLIAM BOULTON.

Published at the particular Desire of some
who heard it.

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MEMORANDUM

TO THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

GEORGE H. R. DAVIS

CHIEF OF BUREAU

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 17, 1871

RECEIVED



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SERMON, &c.

EVERY Instance of Mortality we are acquainted with, calls for our serious Attention, and ought to be improved by us. All Ranks and Degrees of Men without Exception, are subject to it, and it will be our greatest Wisdom and Happiness to prepare for our own Dissolution.

BUT when some great Personage falls: When a good King is taken away from his loving Subjects, this is an Instance of Mortality in which, for several Reasons, we are all nearly concerned. Not to be sensible of this, and cordially affected by it, would not only be ungrateful, but an Abuse of

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the greatest Virtue and Goodness. This I am convinced is unnecessary to mention here ; for I am well persuaded, every Individual among us, capable of it, is sincerely concerned, and we now justly mourn the Death of him who was the Delight of his faithful Subjects.

UPON which solemn Occasion, I have chosen the Words of the sacred Historian, in the First of *Chronicles*,

xxixth. CHAP. and 28th. VER.

And he died in a good old Age, full of Days, Riches and Honour ; and Solomon his Son reigned in his Stead.

AT the Beginning of the World, when the Number of Mankind was but few, the Government lay principally in the Head of the Family, and therefore was confined within a narrow Compass, and of
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a domestic Nature. But afterwards as Men increased, it grew more and more extensive, till by length of Time, the World became so exceeding populous, as to make it necessary for the numerous Inhabitants, to unite in larger Communities, and at last to divide into different States, Kingdoms and Empires, quite independent of one another.

IN this manner, Mankind in different Parts, have continued for many Ages, and this is the present State of the habitable World, as evidently appears from the several various Empires, Kingdoms and Governments among the Children of Men.

I MIGHT here take notice of some of the different Opinions concerning the Nature of Government : But I shall only make this general Observation,

tion, that if we are to judge of the Wisdom and Goodness of it, by the Effects, we must acknowledge the *British* Constitution to exceed all others, because its Subjects are the most happy.

THE *Jews* indeed, were once distinguished, by the great Governor of the Universe, from all other Nations and Kingdoms, being his peculiar People; and God himself condescended to become their King and Governor, and for a considerable time, did them the unspeakable, the unequalled Honour to reign over them. For this Reason the *Jewish* Nation was called a Theocracy, as the glorious Jehovah deigned in so wonderful a manner, to be their King. And had they continued obedient to the divine and holy Laws, which he, in his infinite and unerring Wisdom laid down for the Rule of their Conduct, they would have been the
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most honourable, flourishing and happy People throughout the Earth.

BUT we find, from their History, that they were so ungrateful, as often to rebel against the Lord, who did so many great things for them, and at last impiously desire another King to reign over them. For such an Instance of Rebellion, the Almighty might have justly cut them off, as abusing his divine Authority, but in his forbearing Goodness, he is pleased to grant their Request, to try what Effect it would have upon their Conduct; and from that time, the *Israelites* were governed by succeeding Kings, and always blessed or miserable, as they were Men of a vicious or virtuous Conduct and Character. For while they continued obedient, the Lord smiled upon them with his Favour, but when they sinned, he punished them accordingly.

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WE have many Instances of this Nature, recorded concerning the *Jews*. Sometimes they were favoured with pious and good Princes, and often punished under the Government of evil ones. Among those of a virtuous Character, is the royal and pious *David*. He was a valiant, wise and excellent Prince, chosen and set apart by God, to peculiar Honour and Service, in which he highly distinguished himself, not only by his devout Zeal for the Honour of God, but by many other noble and Praise-worthy Actions. He was made a great Blessing to the *Jewish* Church and Nation, over which he ruled forty Years, with Justice and Judgment, and then died an honourable and happy Death, in Favour with God, and all that People, who payed him the greatest Respect, and deservedly mourned so affecting and public a Loss.

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THE Words before us, which are recorded concerning him, may be very properly applied to our late most excellent King, whose sudden Death we, the Inhabitants of these favoured Lands, now most justly and universally deplore, on Account of the many great and invaluable Blessings, we so long enjoyed, under his wise and gentle Administration. Of whom we can truly say, that *he died in a good old Age, full of Days, Riches, and Honour.*

FROM this Passage of Scripture, I shall endeavour, upon the present Occasion, as far as I am able, to give you a brief Description of the amiable Conduct and Character of our late most worthy Sovereign, and then shew the Improvement we ought to make of this solemn and important Event, in which

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as a happy People, we are all concerned.

I AM First, to give you a brief Description of the exemplary Conduct and Character of our late excellent Sovereign GEORGE II. of blessed Memory.

IN the Days of his Youth and Vigour, like the valiant *David*, he distinguished himself in the noble Cause of Religion and Liberty, and bravely fought for their Defence and Support.

HENCE we see, that he was a noble Warrior, of undaunted Courage and Resolution, and upon this Account truly great and honourable; and an animating Example to all his Forces and Allies.

WHILE he held the Reins of Government, and adorned the *British* Throne,

Throne, his Heart and Mind, were unweariedly employed to make all his Subjects happy. Since that Time, to the Moment of his Diffolution, he made this his constant Study and Care. By endeavouring on the one Hand, to remove every Thing that was Matter of Uneasiness or Discontent, among any of his Subjects; and on the other, it was his Royal Concern, to promote such Methods, and to enact and encourage such Laws, as were for the Welfare of Religion, the Public Utility, and the Peace, Satisfaction, and Happiness of all his People.

His generous and noble Soul, justly abhorred every Thing, that had the Appearance of Cruelty, Oppression, or Injustice. On the contrary, he always delighted in Mercy, and in whatever was agreeable to the Laws of the Nation, and for the Liberty and

Prosperity thereof. For he was ever ready to defend their just Rights and Privileges, and support them, when at any Time they were threaten'd, or attacked, by our perfidious Enemies, whom the most solemn and sacred Promises and Treaties cannot bind.

ANOTHER thing that shews the Excellency of his princely Conduct, and that he was truly influenced by a Christian Spirit, was, the great Dislike he always declared, against Imposition or Persecution on the Account of Religion. He well knew, that such a Temper was inconsistent with, and opposite to the Gospel and Example of Christ. He therefore detested Bigotry and Uncharitableness, and could not bear the Thought, that one of his Subjects should be oppressed or troubled, because of his religious Sentiments. But he allowed Liberty of Judgment and Conscience to all,
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knowing it to be the natural and just Right of all Mankind : That which Christianity gives to its Professors, and teacheth them to own and submit to Christ, as the only Lord of Conscience, and the great and glorious Head and King of his spiritual Kingdom, which consisteth not in Persecution and Cruelty, Compulsion and Severity, but in Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost. If any therefore, were so ill-natured, and under the Influence of an evil, persecuting Spirit, as to attempt to disturb or oppress any of their Christian Brethren, for their different Sentiments in Religion, he ever discouraged and opposed it, and would never suffer any Laws, of that Nature, made in former Reigns, to be put in Force against his faithful, obedient, and truly Protestant Subjects. For he was convinced, by their Conduct and Fidelity to him, that they had a high Esteem for his Person and

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Government, and a large Share in their Hearts and Affections.

AND here, I can't but observe, that such was the great Mildness of his Administration, that he indulged those in their Religion, and other valuable Privileges, who upon their own avowed Principles, can't be cordial and faithful Friends to a Protestant Prince: Yet were constrained to confess, his Royal Clemency to them, and unless ungrateful in the highest Degree, could not but love and honour him.

HE united with his faithful Subjects of these Kingdoms, and his Protestant Allies abroad, in carrying on that just and necessary War, in which we have been about five Years engaged. At first, our Situation and Circumstances were not the most favourable: But by the Wisdom, Prudence, and Condescension of our late most excellent Mo-

Monarch, in Union with his Council and Parliament; and the unanimous Zeal, generous, amazing Supplies, and Loyalty of his People, his Arms were crowned with many great and signal Successes, and under God, he was the blessed Instrument, of hitherto defeating those who unjustly rose up against us: Of defending and protecting our Rights and Privileges, and procuring considerable Advantages to us, in our Trade and Commerce; and we trust, of laying a Foundation for a Peace, that will be honourable and lasting to these Realms,

His auspicious Reign is therefore remarkable, not only for the Wisdom and Mildness of his Administration, but the wonderful Successes and Events, with which it is adorned. So that *Great Britain*, our King and Council, Subjects and Arms, are now
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the Wonder and Envy of distant Nations, and the Terror of our Enemies.

BESIDES what we have now observed, of our excellent and deceased King, we may with great Propriety add, that the whole of his Conduct, was truly honourable and upright, which is an additional Ornament in his Character. He felt the Wants and Distresses of others, commiserated their Condition, and from his Royal Bounty, gave large Sums to be distributed among them. By which Means, he spread Pleasure thro' several Families, and caused the Widow's Heart to sing for Joy. He maintained a strict Regard to his Word and Promise, which he always fulfilled. He was honoured and respected by all the Courts of *Europe*, for his royal and engaging Virtues: And in more distant Parts, Princes and People speak well of him, and shew him Esteem.

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AND notwithstanding his high Station, and the Honours that surrounded him, which made his Crown shine with superior Lustre, he maintained and discovered a devout Reverence for the Supreme Majesty of Heaven and Earth: Highly valued and esteemed the glorious Gospel of Christ; acknowledged him as his Lord and Saviour; walked in the Ways of his Commandments, and daily employed his pious Meditations, upon his glorious and exalted Kingdom above, where he is now in the full and certain Possession of immortal Honour and Bliss; partaking of the pure and sublime Joys of the heavenly State, and humbly bowing before the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, who hath taken him to himself, and given him a Crown of Glory, that shall never fail.

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THUS lived and reigned, diffusing Streams of Joy and Happiness all around him ; for about Thirty-four Years, the Father, the Guardian, and Delight of all his faithful Subjects, whose benevolent Heart and Mind were constantly employed for the Public Welfare. And thus he died in a good old Age, full of Days, Riches, and Honour, in Favour with God, and in the Affections of a great and happy People : Over whom he ruled, in the Fear of God, and like a tender and affectionate Parent, *fed them according to the Integrity of his Heart, and the Skilfulness of his Hands.*

THE Reign of GEORGE II. of good and glorious Memory, will be ever dear, and appear with distinguished Lustre in the Annals of *Great Britain*, while Sentiments of Liberty, Gratitude, and Loyalty, remain in these
Lands,

Lands, succeeding Generations will admire it, and say of us, long after we have lain in Dust:—Of a Truth, they were a happy People, favoured of Heaven, and blest with the best of Kings.

I HAVE now attempted a Character of that great and excellent Prince, whose Death we sincerely mourn. I wish I was more equal to the Subject, that I could do it that Justice it deserves; but I persuade myself, that you my Christian and Protestant Brethren, will agree with me, that tho' the Description is very imperfect, it is truly just.

I NOW proceed to shew the Improvement we ought to make of this solemn and important Event, by offering to your Consideration some suitable Reflections upon it.

IN the first Place: From hence we see the melancholy Effects of Sin, and the irresistible Power of Death. By Sin, Death came into our World, as a just Punishment for violating the Holy Laws of God. For as the inspired Apostle assures us, *by one Man sin entered into the World, and Death by Sin, and so death passed upon all Men, in whom all have sinned.* Hence the awful King of Terrors triumphs over all the Sons of Men without Distinction. For all Mankind, high and low, rich and poor, are subject to his Power, and can't resist his awful, inevitable Stroke. In this respect, the greatest Kings and Potentates of the Earth, are upon a level with the most inconsiderable of their Subjects, seeing both must die and return again to their original Dust. Neither the most sumptuous and magnificent Palaces, nor exalted Greatness, Riches and Honour, can secure
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against the conquering Power of Death,
 Who has as free Access to the Noblest
 Court, as to the lowest Cottages, and
 their poor contented Inhabitants. All
 of every Rank, State and Condition,
 must one Time or other yield to the
 devouring Grave: where the greatest
 Monarch, and the humblest Peasant,
 are equal, and no Distinction made in
 human Bones and Dust. But let us
 as Christians be truly sensible of the
 Love of God, in sending his own Son
 into the World, who hath brought
 Life and Immortality to Light, thro'
 the Gospel: who hath confirmed our
 Hopes, by his glorious Resurrection
 from the Dead; gained a compleat
 Victory over Death and the Grave,
 and hath ascended to the Regions of
 Bliss; to procure for us an Inheritance,
 which is incorruptible, undefiled, and
 fadeth not away. O glorious, immor-
 tal State of Being and Blessedness,
 which is perfect and durable, satisfying
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and delightful, and infinitely superior to the Riches, the Greatness and Honours of the present World, which are all precarious in their Nature, and in Time will most certainly decay!

In the second Place, tho' we have just Cause to lament so great and public a Loss, for which these Nations now mourn, yet we have great Reason to bless God upon his Account, that he was graciously pleased to set such a good King over us, and continue him as a public Blessing so long. God is the supreme, and all-wise Governor of universal Nature, the great Disposer of all Events, by whom Kings reign, and Princes decree Justice. From him all Greatness and Goodness proceeds; to his indulgent and distinguishing Providence we are indebted, for sending the present Royal Family among us, and for the manifold Blessings we have so long, and do still enjoy

joy under them. It becometh us therefore gratefully to acknowledge the gracious Providence of God, in such important Events, and with devout Hearts, praise and magnify his Holy Name, upon this Account. And to shew that we have a just and grateful Sense of his Goodness to us, let us by every Expression in our Power, honour and respect the endeared Memory of that Royal Personage, who was the honoured Instrument of conveying these Blessings to us.

BUT let us still rejoice, and now view with Pleasure, the encouraging Prospect we have before us, for a long Continuance of such Blessings, under the Royal and Rightful Successor of our late good and gracious King.

WERE there the least Reason to fear we should lose any of our Privileges by his Death, this would make our
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Loss more sensible and affecting than
 it is: But adored be the Divine Good-
 ness, it is otherwise, seeing we have
 the greatest Reason still to hope, un-
 der God, for every Thing favourable
 to these Kingdoms: For our Eyes can
 now behold a Prince reigning over us,
 possessed with the Spirit of Christianity,
 and adorned with its excellent Virtues:
 who hath assured us of his Royal Re-
 gard and Affection for all his Subjects,
 and modestly declared, that, “ relying
 “ upon the Wisdom, Experience and
 “ Abilities of his Counsel, and the
 “ Support and Assistance of every ho-
 “ nest Man, he entered with Chear-
 “ fulness into the arduous Situation,
 “ and would make it the Business of
 “ his Life to promote in every Thing,
 “ the Glory and Happiness of these
 “ Kingdoms, to preserve and strength-
 “ en both the Constitution in Church
 “ and State, and endeavour to prose-
 “ cute the present expensive, but just
 “ and

“ and necessary War, in the Manner
 “ the most likely, to bring on an ho-
 “ nourable and lasting Peace, in Con-
 “ cert with his Allies.

WE are therefore bound by such affectionate and encouraging Assurances, to manifest our most dutiful and loyal Affection, to our present lawful Sovereign, by every Instance in our Power, and not count even our Lives dear to us, should we at any time be called upon under him, to hazard them in the noble Cause of Liberty and true Religion.

As Protestant Dissenters, we are under the highest Obligations to it, who now enjoy Blessings and Privileges, that were denied our Fore-fathers; they were not only unjustly debarred of them, but cruelly treated in the dismal Times of Persecution, and its horrible Attendants. Let us reflect upon

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past Ages, and consider the great Difference of our present Situation and Circumstances : Let us be ever thankful that our Lot is cast in these now most happy Times.

AND let us not only bear these Things upon our own Minds, but by our Example and Influence, endeavour to impress them upon the Minds of our Posterity : *that the Generation to come, may know them, even the Children which shall be born ; who shall arise and declare them to their Children, that they may set their Hope in God, and not forget his Works, but keep his Commandments.*

WITH these our grateful Praises, let us unite with one Heart and Voice, in our fervent Prayers to God : beseeching him to bless his present Majesty, GEORGE III. in his Person and Government : that he would make him
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the constant Object of his peculiar Care, Mercy and Love : give him in his Right-hand Length of Days, and in his Left-hand Riches and Honour : that he would crown his Arms with Honour and Success, and make him the happy Instrument of Peace and every other Blessing to these Lands : that his Enemies may be cloathed with Shame : But that on his Head the BRITISH Crown may long flourish.

IN this manner, let us humbly address the Almighty, and while others (whose Condition demands our Pity) are under the galling Yoke of *Popery* and arbitrary Power, O may we be sensibly affected with our inestimable Privileges, that national Prosperity, that pure and undefiled Religion, and those Rights of Liberty and Conscience we possess.—And God grant, that we may more duly prize them, and wisely improve them to the best Pur-

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poses,

poses, knowing assuredly, that for these Things we must e'er long be accountable to the righteous Judge and moral Governor of the Nations.

IN the last Place, let this affecting Instance of Mortality, deeply impress our Minds, and engage our serious Attention, that hereby we may be excited by a Life of Faith and Holiness, to prepare for our own approaching Change.

THIS is a Debt we must all pay, and God only knows how soon we may be called upon to do it, and leave this World, and all its mortal Concerns. We see there is no Discharge in that War: But the Great and Noble (as already observed) fall in it, as well as the Poor and Low: A Consideration that should engage us to moderate our Regards for the uncertain Objects and Pleasures of Time and Sense, to
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put our Trust in the living God, the inexhaustible Fountain of the most durable Happiness, and teach us, by a Course of undissembled Piety, *so to number our Days, as to apply our Hearts unto Wisdom.*

LET us ever remember, that we are the Members of Christ's Kingdom, and under the strongest Obligations to his divine Service. If we pay a dutiful Regard to him, as our Saviour, Lawgiver and Judge, we may then expect a Share in his Blessing and Grace, which will be our greatest Honour and Felicity. For if we are the faithful Subjects of the great Captain of our Salvation, and under his Protection, we need not fear the King of Terrors, but have humble Confidence in the Views of approaching Glory!

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AND at last, when this World and the Glories of it shall fade and perish : When its Empires, States and Kingdoms, shall dissolve at the coming of our descending Lord, and he shall give up the Kingdom unto his Father, that God may be All in All ; then his holy and obedient Subjects, who continue faithful unto Death, shall be honoured with the Divine Approbation, before assembled Worlds, conducted by Angels, to the pure and exalted Realms of Joy and Praise ; and live and-reign with him for ever, when Time shall be no longer ! *Amen.*

F I N I S.



